

AMONG THEATRICAL PEOPLE.

BY HERBERT GIBSON.

New York, N. Y. Special. When you go to the theatre always go well dressed. It's a place you like to take company and make a good impression. Men no more to appear in style than a back number. A certain New York theatre, last summer refused admission to a colored man because he did not wear a collar. Young men are very careless about what they wear to the theatre. In New York City a great number of colored people attend the theatres weekly and not only occupy orchestra chairs but boxes; and it is very seldom that a colored gentleman is dressed in an evening suit. Gentleman when in the company of ladies should occupy such seats should always wear a full dress suit. Ladies I notice, are more particular about their make-up. They usually wear their best and are not stingy with the paint and powder either.

I know a certain Washington girl who started dressing for the theatre at about four o'clock in the afternoon. A great many theatrical managers say the reason they do not solicit colored patronage is because colored people are untidy. Anyhow, they can never be how boisterous and untidy their "brethren" are. Recently I saw a white man enter a fashionable theatre in Chicago. It happened that the theatre was crowded when he arrived and his seat was about the tenth one in the third row in the balcony. He walked down the fourth row a little distance, then he climbed over the handsome plush covered chairs with his muddy shoes and finally got to his seat. Being very hot night he pulled off his coat, and to make it more disagreeable for the ladies that surrounded him he pulled off his shoes. Still the managers and ushers can never see a white man in the wrong, but if a colored gentleman were to attempt to go out between the acts for a little fresh air in some theatres, cat-calls are heard and a cry of "sit down" is heard. Prejudice exists in theatres both North and South, and what I long to see is a theatre owned and run by colored people. There are two cities that I think would pay well and would appreciate the establishment of a theatre of this kind, they are New York City and Washington, D. C. All managers have long ago agreed that Washington is one of the greatest cities for colored attractions and it is their belief that if a theatre of this kind be built here and have a manager the theatre would be supported by white people as well as colored.

Johnson and Dean played at the Orpheum Theatre, Brooklyn, N. Y., last week.

Mr. Tom McIntosh is reported to be at Hot Springs, Ark. He is a great favorite in Washington.

"Black Patti Troubadours" are playing at Webb City, Mo., this week and will play at Kansas City next.

Miss Margaret Scott, prima donna, is present in New York city where she is one of New York's sweetest singers and is always well received.

Mr. Irving Jones played at Tony Pastor's theater, New York, last week.

He is encored from time to time and is still a favorite around New York.

Mr. Harry Jackson is the New York

agent for the "Indianapolis Freeman." Mr. Jackson was formerly secretary of Mr. Pat Chappelle of "A Rabbit's Foot Co."

"South Before the War" is playing at Glen's Falls, New York, this week, and will play next week at Adams, Mass.

Stetson's Uncle Tom's Cabin Company reports excellent business in the New England States, the company numbers ninety people and over thirty head of ponies.

King Rastus (Isham's) which was known by the name of "Isham's Octorooms" in former years are doing excellent out West, although business is not as well as was expected. They played last week at the Tabor Opera House, Aspen, Col.

"The Coontown Four Hundred" Company played at Morrison, Ill., last week. This company has not been East as yet, but have wired all managers that have booked them in theatres in the East to prepare for a big bank account because it will be doubled.

The Georgia Minstrels are meeting with great success out West. They recently played at Seattle, Washington to one of the largest audiences that city has ever had. All colored shows are very popular in Seattle. Ruscoe and Holland are still managing this company.

Mr. George H. Harris, business manager of Williams and Walker's "Sons of Ham" is in excellent health and reports business better than ever. He has invented a novel advertising device in the form of a large ham showing the pictures of Williams and Walker. It is a very fine souvenir.

Mr. Chas. Bowen, better known in professional circles as "Bonesy," is the greatest of buck and wing and soft shoe dancers. He is making his third annual tour with "In Old Kentucky." He holds the medal for the championship, which he won in the Athletic grounds, Asbury Park, N. J.

"I see in the papers where Campbell one of the four in jail at Patterson, New Jersey for murder, committed suicide." (B) "How?" Well you see he was going out of his cell to the corridor when he met Death." (Death is one of the murderers.) This joke is being used by most all of New York's comedians.

It looks as if the Summer Garden or Roof Gardens in New York City will be dead this summer. Of all the roof gardens that gave vaudeville shows last summer only one or two proved a success. Cherry Blossom Grove on the roof of the New York Theatre was quite a success, colored talent was quite a feature of this resort.

Ritchie and Francis, sketch artists, are doing stunts up in Connecticut. This clever team are featuring Mr. Brown's latest song, "If I don't change my mind." The song is full of ginger and is being whistled by every one who has heard it. This song will be sent free of charge to any professional sending a program of their latest stunt.

Mr. Hammerstein's garden on the Victoria roof was the only one that proved to be the "real thing." Miss Bell Davis made quite a hit there. This coming summer will find this resort enlarged and storm proof covered.

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ing the entire roofs of two theatres, the New Republic and the Victoria, owned by the great builder Hammerstein. It will be the finest in New York.

Business is reported dull in England on account of the death of the Queen. Mr. George Lederer former manager of Williams and Walker, and the New York Casino is going to introduce in England an up to date "Uncle Tom's Cabin" company. He thinks the English are very much interested in the novel and will receive it the same as they did "An American Beauty." He will organize the company in America immediately.

Mr. Herbert Gibson, musical comedian, can be addressed in care of the New York Clipper, New York City. He will return to Washington some time in April, bringing five trunks of musical instruments, gathered from all parts of the country—some his own inventions. Recently he was presented with a genuine Chinese fiddle made in China by a Chinese performer. He will put it on exhibition in one of the music stores of Washington; it is one of the rarest of Chinese instruments.

"In Old Kentucky" is playing at the Grand Opera House, New York City, this week and the Pickaninny band is the main feature of the show. They are known as the Woodlawn Wangdoodles, the famous and original brass band of pickaninnies gathered from all parts of the South by the management and conducted by Master John Powell. The playing of this band does not equal Jenkin's Orphan's Band of pickaninnies from South Carolina. In fact the combined forces of these two bands wouldn't jar Hoffman's concert band in the least.

Mr. Pat Chappelle of "A Rabbit's Foot" fame has returned to his home in Florida to attend to the affairs of his own Music Hall. "A Rabbit's Foot" a three act comedy by Mr. Frank Dumont, will be a successful money getter if ever produced by colored actors, not amateurs or ham fats as they are called by professionals. It deals directly with colored man in Manila and is very funny from beginning to the end. It was not the fault of the comedy why Mr. Chappelle was not successful with it but if it is ever put in responsible hands I will assure you that it will be a money getter.

Mr. Ernest Hogan, the unbleached American made a great hit at the New York Theater, New York city last week. He sang "My Zulu Babe" with great success and his jokes were good and up to date. Mr. Hogan is the cleverest colored comedian on the stage to-day. He keeps his audiences laughing and applauding the whole time he is on the stage, and he alone was worth the price of admission. He was seen in a Tenderloin Club the other night and looking over the crowd of "coons" remarked that "Coons don't look alike any more." You must remember that it was just a few years ago when Mr. Hogan thought that "All coons looked alike."

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